

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 114

By Haile

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Comer Donnell for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Comer Donnell is one such estimable person, who evinces the greatest integrity and justice in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Donnell rendered sterling service as the first District Public Defender for the Fifteenth Judicial District, which encompasses Wilson, Trousdale, Smith, Jackson, and Macon counties; he was appointed in 1989, when the office was instituted, and re-elected by the citizens of the Fifteenth Judicial District to continue serving as their District Public Defender until his retirement in November 2018; and

WHEREAS, a native of Lebanon, Comer Donnell is a graduate of Castle Heights Military Academy; he received his undergraduate degree from Duke University and his law degree from Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Donnell studied defense advocacy at California Western School of Law, the National Death Penalty College at the University of Santa Clara, and numerous national and state criminal defense seminars; and

WHEREAS, recognized as a leader by his peers and colleagues, Comer Donnell previously served as president, vice president, secretary-treasurer, and representative for the middle district of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference and also served on other notable committees for the conference; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Donnell's many professional and civic accomplishments include serving as Wilson County Attorney, Lebanon City Attorney, Watertown City Attorney, director of petroleum taxes for the Tennessee Department of Revenue, past president of the Tennessee Indigent Defense Commission, and as a member of the Tennessee Sentencing Commission, the Tennessee Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Comer Donnell has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of members of the bar and bench and his community alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Comer Donnell on his honorable and astute service to the good people of the State of Tennessee as the District Public Defender for the Fifteenth Judicial District, District Public Defenders Conference and salute his unwavering commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.